Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing <u>access to Parlay X web services providing WSDL interfaces, said services being deployed in the domain of a telecommunication operator, by</u> [[to]] software applications <u>deployed in third party administrative domains,</u> ~~access to web services,~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a Parlay gateway permitting access to <u>said Parlay X</u> web services, said Parlay gateway comprising a Parlay framework; ~~and~~

providing a set of modules comprising service interfaces for said software applications, the modules in said set acting as proxies in order to perform requests for access to web services on the framework of said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications<u>; and</u>

<u>configuring the modules in said set for performing authentication, authorization, and execution requests on said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications.</u>

24. Cancelled.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of providing a further set of modules configured for implementing the behaviour of said

web services once said requests on said Parlay framework of said Parlay gateway have been performed on behalf of said software applications by the modules in said set.

26.   Cancelled.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of defining at least one web service security protocol for ensuring secure interaction between said software applications and the modules in said set.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of providing a distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said distributed processing mechanism.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising the step of providing a respective distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said further set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said respective distributed processing mechanism.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said respective distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of one of said software applications accessing a web service comprising the steps of:

said software application subscribing to a module in said further set

corresponding to said web service; and

configuring the service properties of said subscribed module in said further

set, wherein both said operations are performed by using the tools provided by said

Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway.

33.   (Currently Amended) A communication network system for providing

access to Parlay X web services providing WSDL interfaces, said services being

deployed in the domain of a telecommunication operator, by [[to]] software applications

deployed in third party administrative domains, access to web services, comprising:

a Parlay gateway permitting access to said Parlay X web services, said

Parlay gateway comprising a Parlay framework; and

one or more servers hosting a set of modules comprising service

interfaces for said software applications, the modules in said set being configured for

acting as proxies in order to perform requests for access to web services on the

framework of said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications, wherein the

modules in said set are configured for performing authentication, authorization, and

execution requests on said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications.

34.   Cancelled.

35.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, comprising a further set

of modules configured for implementing the behaviour of said web services once said

requests on said Parlay framework of said Parlay gateway have been performed on behalf of said software applications by the modules in said set.

36.   Cancelled.

37.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, comprising at least one web service security protocol for ensuring secure interaction between said software applications and the modules in said set.

38.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, comprising a distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said distributed processing mechanism.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein said distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

40.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, comprising a respective distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said further set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said respective distributed processing mechanism.

41.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein said respective distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

42.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the modules in said further set are configured for permitting said software applications to access a web service by the steps of:

said software application subscribing to a module in said further set

corresponding to said web service; and

the service properties of said subscribed module being configured in said

further set, wherein both said operations are performed by using the tools provided by

said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway.

43.   Cancelled.

44.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a

computer program product loadable in the memory of at least one computer and

comprising software portions capable of performing the method of any of one of claims

23-32 23, 25, and 27-32.